

Recognitions at April 2009 State Board Meeting

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) recognizes school leaders who exemplify high quality online instruction and who are committed to online learning. This year, SREB established the Online Teacher of the Year award to honor the key role these teachers make to education. A total of 12 teachers across the Southeast have been recognized.

"SREB created this first-of-its-kind award to recognize the key role of the online teacher in providing top-quality instruction to students across South Carolina," said Myk Garn, the director of SREB's Educational Technology Cooperative. The cooperative works with South Carolina and SREB's other member states to give students online access to the academic courses they need, regardless of where they live.

- **Dr. Tasha Christmas – SC High Quality Online Teacher of the Year**

State Superintendent Jim Rex (left in photo) and State Board member Phillip Bowers congratulate Dr. Tasha Christmas of Pickens County, named South Carolina's High-Quality Online Teacher of the Year. Christmas. Dr. Christmas has more than 12 years experience as a classroom teacher and seven years experience in the challenging, fast-paced online environment.

She serves as the instructional team leader for all online teachers with the South Carolina Virtual Schools program. She teaches college prep and Honors English, SAT critical reading and SAT math.



The South Carolina Virtual School nominated Christmas for the online teacher recognition from SREB for her love of helping students and her ability to meet the challenge of working in a fast-paced online environment.

- **School Bus Poster Contest Winner**

State Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex and State Board member Patsy Pye (second from right) congratulate Orangeburg District Five student Davina Felder (holding plaque), winner of the School Bus Safety Poster Contest sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Education's Transportation Office. Also shown are art teacher Malissa Wright (far right) and Davina's mother, Ramona Felder.



This competition brings awareness to the importance of school bus safety and gives exposure to some of our state's most talented young artists. This year, there were entries from 35 school districts. Copies of Davina's winning poster will be distributed statewide to elementary and middle schools.